

Meeting the Challenge: Indiana State Prison earns accreditation in its 145th year

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By Jason Miller

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“You're probably the least appreciated employees of all the agencies I've been hired to work with. People need to be reminded what life would be like if you weren't on the job.”

Governor Mitch Daniels

Gov. Mitch Daniels on Friday personally thanked employees at Indiana State Prison in Michigan City for their work in helping the prison gain its first ever accreditation from the American Correctional Association.



“You're probably the least appreciated employees of all the agencies I've been hired to work with,” Daniels said in front of a packed house in the prison's chapel. “People need to be reminded what life would be like if you weren't on the job.”

In its 145th year, the prison received the national accreditation, which, according to the American Correctional Association, provides facilities with “improved staff training and development, assessment of strengths and weaknesses of prison programs, better defense against lawsuits, the establishment of measurable criteria for upgrading operations, improved staff morale and professionalism, a safer environment for staff and offenders, reduced liability insurance costs and performance-based benefits.”

New prison Superintendent Ed Buss lauded staff for the “long, hard work it took to achieve” the honor, which he said is only granted when a facility passes tests measured by some 500 assessment standards.

“It's a great way to measure ourselves against other maximum security facilities throughout the country,” Buss said. “This is a very special day.”

Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue called the department a “family” and said he was “very proud to be on your team.”

“You met the challenge with enthusiasm and pride,” he said. “Which is evident by the findings of the auditor of the ([American Corrections Association](#)).”

Contact reporter Jason Miller at jmiller@thenewsdispatch.com.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.